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NICARAGUA CANAL AND THE MONROE DOCTRINE. 95

says: "What we need, is another board of experts to study this phase of the more general problem of interoceanic transit . . . From the results of such an investigation, we could, at all events, reach a decision regarding the economic importance of the canal, and the report itself would, at the same time, be an important guide to the commercial possibilities of our future." This seems to me, an excellent suggestion, one upon which Congress would do well to act.

The closing chapter of Professor Keasbey's book is devoted to an analysis of the Monroe Doctrine in the light of the conclusions reached as the result of his elaborate historical study. In Professor Keasbey's mind the struggle between the United States and Great Britain for the control of the transit route, is incidental to the larger contest of the two nations over the American continent. Professor Keasbey thinks that Great Britain's foreign policy as regards America is both aggressive and far-sighted, and that nothing but a vigorous policy of opposition on the part of the United States can prevent Great Britain from dominating the affairs of the American continent outside of the United States, and from controlling the developing commerce of the countries of the Southern Pacific.

Professor Keasbey has no faith in the international neutralization of the isthmian waterway, but believes that the economic and political interests of the United States demand the exclusive American control of any canal that may be constructed. He, of course, recognizes the fact that the controversy is by no means over, and, in my opinion, he does well to present the issue to the American people in the concise and strong way in which he has put it in the closing chapter of his book. It is well for us to realize what is involved in our maintenance of the Monroe Doctrine, and to appreciate the consequences that will result to us if we neglect it.

EMORY R. JOHNSON.

Richelieu. By RICHARD LODGE, M. A. Pp. 235. Price, 75 cents.
London and New York: The Macmillan Co., 1896.

In the history of every nation there are a few men about whom a wealth of anecdote has gathered, and who are known quite as much through the novels as through the histories in which they figure. Such a character is Richelieu. No tale of France in the seventeenth century can neglect his personality, no collection of French stories is complete unless one of them has the great cardinal for its hero. Since such pictures too often construct their details according to the necessities of the plot, it is especially fortunate that a public which has recently renewed its acquaintance with Richelieu in the pages of Stanley

Weyman should have an opportunity to see the same personality as depicted by a capable biographer.

During the first half of the seventeenth century the interests of France centred in her foreign policy. It is but natural therefore that the larger portion of this work should be occupied with military and diplomatic concerns, for, as Professor Lodge says, the life of Richelieu is the history of his country during the period in which he lived—nevertheless the reader cannot but regret that the author felt compelled to devote seven of his ten chapters to these matters. It is with such details that the histories of France are filled, for, these years constituted the creative period of the Bourbon monarchy, and the author might have relied more upon these authorities. On the other hand, the relations of the great cardinal to the church, and his influence on domestic administration, to which two chapters are devoted, are subjects which have not been adequately treated, and for the fuller discussion of which the author would have deserved the thanks of students everywhere. This regret is made the keener by the excellent character of these two chapters. The tone of fairness and impartiality which characterizes the author's judgment deserves recognition, even when one differs from his conclusions. It is refreshing to meet an English writer who dismisses with the sharp answer "it was impossible" those critics who see in Richelieu's failure to establish constitutional government the cause of the later tyranny and decadence of the Bourbons. Professor Lodge throughout his work has tried to free himself from English tradition and has, in a large measure, succeeded. He endeavors to ask always what did French advancement demand, and French conditions allow? He has neither the prejudice, which is unconsciously affected by the danger to English interests involved, nor the carelessness which argues as if his heroes acted under ideal conditions.

But, if the author's method of argument is admirable, his conclusions are not always as unassailable. While many will agree that Richelieu made a correct choice between absolute government by the king, and absolute government by the parliament, "a narrow and bigoted bureaucracy," it may be doubted whether "the criterion by which Richelieu's government should be tested is to be sought not in an estimate of the successes or blunders of the later Bourbons but in an examination as to whether he himself made the best use of the authority which he established." In a narrow sense this may be true; in a broad sense it is only true when it is proven that no other frame of government that it was possible to establish could have developed a force in the state on which an efficient administration could have rested. By the control over letters which

resulted from the founding of the Academy, and the later fostering care of Louis XIV., that spirit of effective criticism usually exerted by literary men, even under absolutism, was repressed, and the attitude of the government in religious concerns had a like influence in crushing out whatever independence varying creeds might have given. If it is unjust to hold the cardinal responsible for the whole of this movement, it is as unfair to forget that he was its originator.

An exception may be made regarding religious matters, for Richelieu seems to have had no intention of depriving the Huguenots of their religious as distinct from their political independence. Although a cardinal, Richelieu was first of all a Frenchman, and it is more than possible that he expected this tolerance; united with the education which is gained from commercial relations as well as from books, to produce an enlightened community, a community in which more confidence could be placed and to which more powers could gradually be entrusted.

The work closes with a brief consideration of the "*Testament politique*," only the first chapter of which our author believes to be authentic, an all too short discussion of Richelieu's personal character, and a brief bibliography. As a whole the critic can only repeat of this book what its writer says of the work of M. Hanotaux, that it is to be hoped its author may yet find sufficient leisure to enlarge it.

C. H. LINCOLN.

Philadelphia.

Studies in Ancient History; The Second Series; Comprising an Inquiry into the Origin of Exogamy. By the late JOHN FERGUSON McLENNAN. Edited by his widow and ARTHUR PLATT. Pp. xiv, 605. Price, \$6.00. London and New York: The Macmillan Co., 1896.

Maine's "Ancient Law," and Bachofen's "Mutterrecht" were published in 1861. The first edition of McLennan's "Primitive Marriage" appeared in 1865. Morgan's "Systems of Consanguinity and Affinity of the Human Family" was published in 1871, and his "Ancient Society" in 1877. The first edition of McLennan's "Studies in Ancient History; First Series; Comprising a Reprint of Primitive Marriage," was published in 1876, and his "The Patriarchal Theory," edited after the author's death by his brother, Donald McLennan, appeared in 1885. These dates are necessary to an appreciation of the great importance of the posthumous papers now published as a second series of the "Studies in Ancient History," a volume which has been reviewed in prominent journals in a grossly misleading way. Justice to one of the ablest and most unfortunate of constructive